

LIBRARY

Urmston Urban District Council,

ANNUAL REPORT

for . . . 1937

BY

A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,
Acting Medical Officer of Health

AND

ROBERT G. CHILD, M.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

URMSTON:
"TELEGRAPH" Printing Co., Ltd., Railway Road.

Urmston Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

for . . 1937

BY

A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,
Acting Medical Officer of Health

AND

ROBERT G. CHILD, M.S.I.A..
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

JUNE, 1938.

The Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1937.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URMSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I beg to submit to you the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1937.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—4,799 Acres.

Population (Census 1931)—9,284.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population, 1937
—30,500.

Number of occupied houses (Census, 1931)—2,474.

„ „ „ „ 31st Dec., 1937—9,818.

General Rate, 1937-38—12/-.

Rateable Value at 31st Dec., 1937—£305,485.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£1,216.

The geographical position of Urmston is 6 miles W.S.W. from Manchester and 204 miles from London.

With the exception of the Trafford Park area of Davyhulme the district is chiefly residential, the residents being mainly dependent on Manchester and surrounding districts for their livelihood.

The chief industries carried on in Trafford Park are :—petroleum storage, oil refining, manufacture of asbestos, steel, wire, rubber, chemicals and furniture, also engineering and electricity works, tea bonding and abattoirs products.

Unemployment in the district is not extensive in comparison with surrounding areas.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	{	Total	M.	F.	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 17·3.
		Legitimate	519	282	237
		Illegitimate	10	7	3
		Total	529	289	240

Still Births ... 25 14 11 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 45.

Deaths 304 150 154 Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, *9·9

Deaths from Puerperal causes---

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births.
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	6	—
Total	6	10·83

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births...	58
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	59
Illegitimate ,, ,, ,, illegitimate ,, ,,	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 	42
,, ,, Measles (all ages) 	nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) 	2
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 	nil

Population	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under one Year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death Rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
30,500							
Mean of 5 years—							
1932—1936	15·1	10·4	0·35	1·59	3·69	3·51	47
Year 1936 ...	16·1	11·0	0·27	1·42	6·45	6·10	47
1937	17·3	*9·9	0·49	1·37	11·34	10·83	58
Increase or Decrease in 1937 on 5 years average, 1932-1936	+2·2	—0·5	+0·14	—0·22	+7·65	+7·32	+11
Previous Year ...	+1·2	—1·1	+0·22	—0·05	+4·89	+0·73	+11
*1937 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1·09)=10·7 per 1,000							

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1937.

			Males	Females
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	2
Influenza	...	...	2	3
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	1	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	7	8
do. (non-respiratory)	„	„	2	3
General Paralysis of Insane	...	...	1	—
Cancer	...	...	23	19
Diabetes	...	...	3	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	4	10
Heart Disease	...	...	36	40
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	5	10
Bronchitis	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	17	9
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	2	2
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	2	—
Appendicitis	...	...	2	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	3	1
Other diseases of Liver	...	...	2	—
Other digestive diseases	...	...	5	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	3	4
Puerperal causes	...	...	—	6
Congenital Debility, etc.	...	...	10	11
Senility	...	...	4	9
Suicide	...	...	2	1
Other violence	...	...	4	2
Other defined causes	...	...	8	10
Ill-defined or not known	...	...	1	—
All causes			150	154
Total			16	15
Deaths of Infants under one year			16	15
			—	—

There has not been any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has required investigation or any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy.

There is no evidence to show that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.—Pathological and bacteriological examinations are undertaken by arrangement with the Manchester University, Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine, at their Laboratory in York Place, Manchester. The number of examinations carried out during 1937 on behalf of the Council was 95 made up as follows:—

Month	Diph-theria	Human Tuberculosis Sputum	Hæmolytic Streptococci	Water		Total
				Bacterio-logical	Chemical	
January	5	—	—	—	—	5
February .	8	—	—	—	—	8
March	10	—	—	—	—	10
April	3	1	—	—	—	4
May	9	—	—	—	—	9
June	15	—	—	2	2	19
July.....	7	—	—	—	—	7
August	10	—	—	—	—	10
September	4	—	—	1	1	6
October ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
November.	6	—	1	—	—	7
December	7	—	—	—	—	7
	87	1	1	3	3	95

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—For the removal of cases of infectious disease, the motor ambulances belonging to the Salford Corporation and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board are available. For non-infectious cases, accident cases and maternity patients, arrangements exist with the Stretford, Eccles, and Salford Corporations for the use of their motor ambulances.

(c) MEDICAL AND NURSING FACILITIES IN THE HOME.—Medical Practitioners. There are 12 resident doctors in the district, in addition to some residing in the neighbouring districts who practice in the area.

General Nursing. For general nursing purposes nurses from the Urmston Cottage Hospital, and the Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme Nursing Association visit patients as required. The Association does not undertake midwifery cases (i.e., attendance at confinements without a medical practitioner) or monthly nursing. The Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association and employs two nurses permanently, and one additional nurse temporarily as required. No special arrangements exist for the nursing at home of cases of infectious disease.

Midwives. Three Midwives are employed by the Lancashire County Council to attend confinements in the Urmston Urban District and reside within the district.

Health Visitors. The services of two Health Visitors, employed by the Lancashire County Council, are available in the district, in addition to visiting nurses under the Tuberculosis Scheme.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :—

Welfare Centres. There are three Welfare Centres for mothers and babies in the district and these are under the control of the Lancashire County Council. These are held as follows :—

Davyhulme	Mondays, 2-0 to 4-0 p.m.
Flixton	Tuesdays, 2-30 to 4-0 p.m.
Urmston	Wednesdays, 2-0 to 4-0 p.m.

The Davyhulme and Urmston Centres are held at “The Moorlands”, Cornhill Road, Davyhulme, and the Flixton Centre was transferred from The Institute, Flixton Road, to the Alker Hall, Flixton Road, in June, 1938. The number of attendances at these Centres in 1936 was 10,446, these attendances being made by 1,038 individual children ; in 1937 the number of attendances was 10,762, these attendances being made by 1,087 individual children.

Ante-Natal Clinics. These are held at the Infant Welfare Centre, Green Lane, Patricroft, on Fridays, at 3-30 p.m., and at Park Hospital, Davyhulme, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10-0 a.m. New bookings and patients up to 24 weeks pregnant are required to attend on Tuesdays.

School Clinic. “The Moorlands”, Cornhill Road. This is provided by the Lancashire County Council. Minor Ailments—Cases are seen on Mondays from 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon, and Thursdays at 1-30 p.m. for redressings. Ophthalmic cases are seen at fortnightly clinics by appointment, by a Specialist appointed by the County Council. Orthopædic cases are seen by a Consulting Orthopædic Surgeon by appointment at Longfield Lodge, Cadishead, where remedial exercise classes are held weekly also. Dental treatment is given by appointment on two and a half days per week. Special arrangements exist between the Lancashire County Council and the Park Hospital, Ancoats Hospital and the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, for the treatment of certain defects of the nose, throat, ear and eye. Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are held three times a week at “The Moorlands”. These are further referred to under Section F.

Tuberculosis Dispensary. The Lancashire County Council Dispensary is situated at No. 28, Gilda Brook Road, Eccles. Patients are seen on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2-30 p.m. and on Fridays at 9-30 a.m. New patients require a note from their Medical Attendant.

(e) HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

General. The district is well served in the matter of hospital accommodation. The Park Hospital, Flixton, with 500 beds, has been transferred recently to the County Public Health Department. There are also the Urmston Cottage Hospital and the Eccles and Patricroft Hospital close at hand. The numerous large voluntary hospitals in Manchester and Salford treat a large number of patients from the Urmston District. The Council contributes an annual sum of £250 to the Manchester and Salford Medical Charities Fund.

Infectious Diseases. By an Agreement dated 9th September, 1930, between the Council and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, provision is made for the reception at the Board's hospital of smallpox patients from this district. Two beds are available for which an annual retaining fee is paid.

For the treatment of tuberculosis the sanatoria of the Lancashire County Council are available.

For other infectious diseases a new agreement has been made, dated 12th May, 1938, with the Salford Corporation for the accommodation of patients at the Ladywell Sanatorium, in conjunction with neighbouring authorities, under the County Council Scheme.

Maternity. Beds are available for maternity patients at the Park Hospital, Davyhulme, and the Urmston Cottage Hospital; also in three private nursing homes registered by the County Council and regularly inspected.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation and is of good quality. A constant and direct supply is maintained to each dwelling-house in the district.

The question of liability to plumbo-solvent action has been raised from time to time, but it is considered that although the water is very soft, no action need be taken with regard to its liability to act on lead pipes.

The water is analysed at regular intervals by the Manchester Corporation Waterworks department, and the results both chemically and bacteriologically are quite satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Extensions of the sewerage system have been carried out during the year in the Trafford Park area. All sewers in the district are flushed with fresh water as required and all new drains are submitted to water test.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. All water courses are regularly inspected and action taken where necessary to check pollution.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION. At the end of the year there were :—

19 Privy Middens. 26 Privy Closets. 58 Pail Closets.
 22 Dry Ashpits (excluding middens). 10,000 Movable
 Ashbins. 9,992 Houses on water carriage system.
 9,921 Fresh Water Closets. 71 Waste Water Closets.

Conversions.		During year 1937	During five years 1932-36
No. of Privy Closets	{ To fresh W.C.'s.	—	—
	{ To waste W.C's.	—	—
	{ To Pail Closets	—	—
No. of Pail Closets	{ To fresh W.C's.	5	30
	{ To waste W.C's.	—	—
No. of waste W.C's to fresh W.C's.		—	—
No. of houses at which movable ash- bins have been substituted for fixed receptacles			4

PUBLIC CLEANSING. The collection and disposal of house refuse and the scavenging of roads and streets is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and particulars of this work are given in his report.

SHOPS. The particulars of the necessary steps which have been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Acts are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. Fourteen preliminary notices were served during the year to abate nuisances arising from the emission of black smoke and 85 observations were taken by the department.

In pursuance of the policy of co-operative action with industry, particulars of courses at the Manchester Municipal College of Technology in "Smoke Abatement for Boiler Firemen" were circulated to all works in the district.

The Council is represented on the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

SWIMMING BATHS. The Council have erected at a cost of £30,000 an indoor swimming pool with slipper, foam, and medicated baths. Bacteriological and chemical examinations of the water have shown the condition to be satisfactory. There are not any privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in the district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. During the year information was received by the department of 2 council houses and 17 privately-owned houses being infested with these vermin. In each case disinfestation was carried out by spraying with powerful liquid fumigants, this work being carried out by the Council's own workman under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

SCHOOLS. All are kept in a good sanitary condition and are sufficiently supplied with water. The department is in constant co-operation with the School Authorities in relation to the health of the scholars and for preventing the spread of infectious disease.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

I—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1—(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	156
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	559
2—(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	65
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	233
3—Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	83
4—Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	65

2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF STATUTORY NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Council or their Officers...	49
--	----

3—ACTION UNDER *STATUTORY* POWERS DURING THE YEAR—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
--	-----

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
---	---

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of statutory notices :—

(a) By owners	6
(b) By the Council in default of owners	Nil.

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
---	------

4—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—OVERCROWDING.

(A)—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	2
---	---

(2) Number of families dwelling therein	2
---	---

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	16
--	----

(B) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil.
---	------

(C)—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	11
---	----

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	77
---	----

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. The supply is obtained partly from local farms and partly from outside districts, and examination of samples during the year has shown it to be of a wholesome character with rare exceptions. The cowsheds, dairies and milk-shops are inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors and are, on the whole, in a satisfactory condition. Four licences to sell “Tuberculin Tested” milk, two to sell “Accredited” milk, and two to sell “Pasteurised” milk, were granted during the year. There was no cause to refuse any application for registration or to revoke licences for graded milk. Two dairymen in the district have been licensed by the County Council for the production of “Accredited” milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. Periodical visits of inspection are made by the Sanitary Inspectors to three slaughterhouses, one cold stores, and twenty-five butchers’ shops in the district. Three are 25 bakehouses in the district all of which are kept in a good sanitary condition.

ADULTERATION, CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—The sampling and analysis of food and drugs in this district is under the control of the Lancashire County Constabulary. The Superintendent of Police reports the following samples obtained in the district under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928 :—

Milk	42	Coffee Essence with Chicory	1
Cornflour.....	1	Coffee	1
Butter	1	Beef Dripping	1
Baking Powder	1	Mixed Pickles	1
Rice	1	Syrup	1
Cheese	1	Ground Almonds	2
Family Pickles	1	Ox Tongue Loaf Paste	1
Lard	1	Margarine	1
Condensed Milk	2	Strawberry Jam	1
Malt Vinegar	2	Crab Paste	1
Tinned Pears	1	Salmon	1
Pepper.....	1	Raspberry Jam	1

All the samples were found to be genuine.

NUTRITION.—No special work in connection with the dissemination of knowledge on this subject has been undertaken.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—The number of notifications of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis) was 175 in 1937 against 177 in 1936 and 130 in 1935. The presence of a large hospital of 500 beds in the district, taking in patients from many districts outside Urmston, results in the notification of a number of cases of infectious disease from the hospital; a number of these cases occur in patients whose homes are outside the district and who come into hospital incubating some infectious disease, or are unfortunate enough to contract it while in hospital. The table on page 13 distinguishes between the infectious diseases notified by private practitioners and those notified from the hospital. From this table it will be seen that 142 of the notifications referred to are persons ordinarily resident within the Urban District, while 33 were ordinarily resident outside the district.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—As stated earlier in the Report this is provided by arrangement with the Salford Corporation at Ladywell Sanatorium, except in cases of smallpox which are removed to the hospital of the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board. Patients requiring hospital treatment are removed in an infectious diseases ambulance. The hospital accommodation available is utilised to the best advantage, removal to hospital only being undertaken when isolation at the patient's home is not practicable.

DISINFECTION, ETC.—On receipt of notification the house where the infectious disease has occurred is visited at once by one of the Sanitary Inspectors. When the case is isolated at home all the children from the infected house are excluded from school until such time as the house is free from infection. On termination of the case by removal to hospital, recovery, or death, the room and its contents are thoroughly fumigated under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector and the bedding is submitted to super-heated steam disinfection. During the year 171 rooms and 128 lots of bedding which had been exposed to infection were disinfected. No arrangements are available in this district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons as such arrangements have not been found necessary.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1937.

(Distinguishing cases notified from Park Hospital)

Disease	Notified by Private Practi- tioners (a)	Notified from Park Hospital		Total of Columns (a) and (b)	Total Notifica- tions		
		Ordinarily resident in Urmston (b)	Ordinarily resident outside Urmston (c)		(a)	(b)	(c)
Scarlet Fever	71	3	8	74	82		
Diphtheria	14	4	7	18	25		
Enteric Fever	—	—	1	—	1		
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	1	4	1	5		
Erysipelas.....	10	—	2	10	12		
Puerperal Pyrexia....	—	2	9	2	11		
Pneumonia	30	5	2	35	37		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	2	2		
	126	16	33	142	175		

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													HOSPITAL.		
	Total cases at all ages.	under 1-	YEARS.										65 and over	Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
			1-2-	2-3-	3-4-	4-5-	5-10-	10-15-	15-20-	20-35-	35-45-	45-65				
Scarlet Fever...	82		6	9	8	40	4	6	6	3				59		
Diphtheria ...	25		2		1	8	1	2	8	1	2			25		
Enteric Fever	1					1								1		
Acute Primary Pneumonia. } " Influenzal "	37	3	1	2	3	3	2	1	7	5	5	5	26	10	3	
Puerperal Pyrexia	11								10	1				11		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	5				1		1	1	2					5		
Ophthalmia																
Neonatorum	2	2												1		
Erysipelas ...	12		1		1	1			1	3	4	1		9		
Totals	175	5	2	10	12	53	8	10	34	13	11	6	26	121	3	

SCARLET FEVER.—This disease has again been very prevalent. Notifications were rather less than in the previous year, being 81 as against 93 in 1936. The number of cases treated in hospital was 59 and at home 22. There were no deaths. Scarlatinal antitoxin is provided free of charge by the Council to medical practitioners, where, in their judgment, the use of it to prevent scarlet fever is justifiable and necessary.

DIPHTHERIA.—The number of cases notified was 25 as against 24 in 1936. It may be pointed out that 7 of the notifications referred to patients ordinarily resident outside the district who were in Park Hospital at the time of notification. The number of cases notified in children under 15 years of age was 12 and only 7 of these ordinarily resided in the district. The following table shows the notifications of diphtheria during the last 5 years since the amalgamation of the districts:—

Year	Under 5 Years	5 – 15 Years	Over 15 Years	Total
1933 	3	11	7	21
1934 	13	14	15	42
1935 	9	10	4	23
1936 	3	13	8	24
1937 	3	9	13	25
Total 	31	57	47	135
Average for 5 Years 	6.2	11.4	9.4	27

SUPPLY OF ANTITOXIN.—Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Council and is available at local chemists, and also at the Urmston Police Station by day or night at times when chemists' supplies are not available.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. It was stated in last year's Report that the Council had a Scheme under consideration for free immunisation against diphtheria, provided sufficient support was forthcoming from parents in giving consent for treatment. Parents of all children attending local public elementary schools were circularised in July, 1937, and about half of these gave their

consent. The Council decided to proceed with the Scheme and it was put into operation on the 3rd September. The Scheme provided for the injection of three doses of toxoid-antitoxin floccules at fortnightly intervals by general practitioners working in rotation at sessions arranged at the school clinic. The sessions are held on three afternoons per week from 3-0 to 4-0 p.m., about 35 children attending at each session. The Council provides the toxoid-antitoxin and pays a fee to the general practitioners and provides the clerical assistance required; the Lancashire County Council allows the use of the school clinic and provides nursing assistance at the actual sessions. The Scheme has worked smoothly and owes much to the co-operation of the local medical profession.

Sufficient financial provision was made to allow for the treatment of some 800 children by the end of the financial year; actually, the number treated has been more, as shewn below:—

NUMBER OF CHILDREN TREATED UNDER THE IMMUNISATION SCHEME.	
1st September—31st December, 1937	452
1st January—31st March, 1938	505
TOTAL	957

Of these 121 were under school age.

SCHICK TEST.—It has been found desirable to arrange for a number of sessions for Schick testing and in particular to test a number of children who had been immunised some years previously, and whose parents were willing for further treatment provided such treatment was considered to be necessary. These Schick test sessions only having commenced in March, 1938, it is not possible to include any figures in this Report.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—The powers and duties under Section 88 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness and for the treatment of persons in this district suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes, are vested with the County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.—It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with tuberculous employees in the milk trade and no compulsory removal to hospital has been required under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during 1937, are given in the following table:—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—				1				1
1—		1	3	2			1	
5—			3	1				
10—			2					
15—	2				1			
20—		5			1	1		
25—		4		2		3		1
35—	5	3	1	1	1	2	1	1
45—	1	1			1	2		
55—	2	2	1		2			
65 & upwards								
Totals	10	16	10	7	6	8	2	3
	26		17		14		5	

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to the total tuberculosis deaths during the year was 1 to 9.5. There is not any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

In conclusion I desire to thank Mr. Child and the other members of the staff for their help and for their keen interest in all the work of the department.

A. V. STOCKS,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
CROFTS BANK ROAD,
URMSTON,
JUNE, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URMSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I submit my report on the work of the Health Department for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

The past twelve months has been an eventful one for all health authorities, and the succession of Parliamentary measures, each of paramount importance, has allowed little respite to myself or staff. The new Public Health Act which became operative on the 1st day of October, whilst largely a consolidating measure, effected a number of important changes and this can also be said of the Housing Act, 1936.

In May of this year the Shops "Sunday Trading Restriction" Act came into force, and whilst generally speaking it appears to have been welcomed in the district certain anomalies will no doubt receive the attention of the legislature in the future.

At the end of 1937 there were 9,818 occupied houses in the district. During the year 790 new houses were erected, an increase of 640 occupied houses compared with the year 1936.

On these figures, and taking the average number of persons per occupied house as 3.3, I estimate the present population of the district to be 32,000.

The following is a summary in-so-far as they can be tabulated of all visits and inspections made during the last year.

Complaints received and investigated 326

INSPECTIONS MADE :—

Dwelling Houses (Public Health Acts)	...	...	180
" " (Housing Acts)	...	...	379
" " (Do. Overcrowding)	...	...	1,943
Drainage	...	...	518
New Drains Tested	...	...	462
Public Markets	...	...	146
Water Courses	...	...	67
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	217

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	219
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
Visits re Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	317
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	259
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Council House Applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	547
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	457
Visits to Cold Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Rats and Mice Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
								6,559

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The work of the Cleansing Department continues to be carried out in a satisfactory and systematic manner. The whole of the house, trade and other refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and this is still proving very beneficial and economical, and the Council have sufficient land at their disposal to last for many years.

During the year a mobile conveyor was obtained for removing the soil from the bottom of the tip to the top for covering purposes, and has been a great advantage. The cleansing work is increasing year by year with the rapid growth of the district. The increase on house refuse last year amounted to 1,000 tons. The average weight per load of house refuse is 24 cwts. per load on weighings at various periods of the year.

The number of bins emptied weekly reaches approximately 10,000.

6,768 tons of house refuse was collected and disposed of, an average of 564 tons per month. This represents 13.78 cwts. per occupied house for the year or 11.5 cwts. per 1,000 population per day and 4.2 cwts. per head of population for the year.

The number of loads of refuse received and dealt with at the tip were :—

House Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	5,640
Trade Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	1,486
Other Refuse :—						
Road Sweepings	...	...	...	...	...	607
Gully Sludge	...	...	...	...	...	113
Highways	...	...	...	...	...	74
						7,920

STREET CLEANSING.

This work is carried out by hand sweeping on the beat system and street orderly trucks which are cleared several times per day by a collecting lorry. Four sections are operated with two men and an orderly on each section, and one man and orderly is engaged on a constant round of points throughout the district where increased attention is required; this arrangement so far is satisfactory.

With regard to the gully cleansing this is done at intervals by a mechanical gully emptier which was purchased and put into operation at the beginning of the year and has proved very beneficial from a health point of view as well as economical.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are now 25 bakehouses on the register this being an increase of two. All the premises comply with the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, and none are underground.

In-so-far as general management and hygienic considerations are concerned, conditions are excellent and on no occasion was there found cause for complaint.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

MEAT.

Three slaughterhouses are situated in the area and of these one is registered and the other two licensed, and in addition 25 meat traders carry on business in the district.

The carcasses and offal of every animal slaughtered for human food in the district is inspected before being released for consumption, and during the past twelve months 7 cwts., 2 qrs., 27 lbs., was subject to voluntary surrender.

By far the most common pathological and morbid condition found was Tuberculosis accounting for at least 75% of diseased meat dealt with.

In addition to the foregoing, frequent visits are made to the Cold Stores in Trafford Park where 5% of all imported carcasses of beef, mutton and lamb are inspected. Only in isolated cases was disease found in the meat dealt with. The number of carcasses dealt with during the year was 1,323.

In connection with the inspection of meat 377 visits were made.

OTHER FOODS.

As a routine measure all shops retailing or dealing in foodstuffs are regularly inspected and foodstuffs examined, but only in one or two minor cases was action by the department necessary.

The public market is also subject to these routine visits.

HOUSING ACT 1925-36 (SLUM CLEARANCE).

The amount of work carried out by the department under the provisions of these Acts steadily increases, as wherever it is found expedient to use these measures such action is taken, as invariably the results obtained are of a permanent and beneficial character.

The total number of houses which have been the subject of representations to the Ministry of Health during the past year was 72 and these were included in 11 Clearance Areas.

During the year the Minister of Health ordered a Public Enquiry to be held regarding the making by the Council of 7 Clearance Orders affecting 88 houses in various parts of the district. With a few minor adjustments these Orders were confirmed.

Under this part of the Act 74 persons were rehoused in modern semi-detached houses and bungalows, in healthy surroundings and their old and insanitary and unhealthy dwellings demolished.

Houses dealt with individually which were capable of repair at a reasonable expense numbered 6, and these were rendered in all respects fit for human habitation after the service of statutory notice.

In addition, 49 houses were repaired following the service of an informal notice, the number of such notices served during the year was 85.

The number of Individual Unfit Houses, incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense, dealt with during the year was 2 and following undertakings made by the owners not to re-let for human habitation, the Council agreed to waive for the time being the question of the demolition of these houses. Six persons were re-housed in this connection.

HOUSING ACT 1935-36 (OVERCROWDING).

Of the 15 cases of overcrowding reported last year only one case remains to be dealt with. The other families affected have either been re-housed by the Council or have found suitable and sufficient accommodation on their own initiative elsewhere.

Generally speaking the requirements of the Act with regard to the overcrowding are being complied with, the only contraventions noted are those affecting the owners and in this connection 10 preliminary notices have been served during the year.

The number of visits made by the staff during the year in connection with this work totalled 1,943.

SHOPS ACTS 1912-1936.

Since the transference of powers under the above Acts from the Lancashire County Council to this authority much time and thought has been given to the administration of this legislation in an endeavour to be fair both to shopkeepers and customer.

On the 10th November a Compulsory Order was made by the Council fixing Wednesday afternoon as the Half-day Closing in the district, and this has brought about more uniform administration, bringing the district into line with other authorities in the area. Since this Order became operative and the shopkeepers understood its implication, little fault can be found in its observance, such contraventions as have been noted were all of a minor character and not such as to necessitate the institution of legal proceedings.

With regard to the general Closing Hours, although the majority of shopkeepers in the area observe these faithfully, there has been some isolated instances where individuals have taken an unfair advantage of their brother tradesmen and although statutory action was not resorted to, strong warnings were issued to each delinquent.

On 1st May, 1937, the first part of the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act came into force and this seriously limited the number of shops which can be legally open on Sundays for the purposes of trade, and although not fully operative until January, 1938, it has already had the effect of seriously curtailing the amount of business transacted on Sunday.

In their capacity of Shops Acts Inspectors, 317 visits were made by my Inspectors during the last year.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

In the district at present there are registered 18 cowkeepers, 18 dairymen and 18 milk purveyors (bottled milk only). There are also registered for the sale of milk 10 milk purveyors from outside the district. The number of cowkeepers in the district is steadily decreasing owing to the ever-increasing demand for land for building development and every year the land available for the use of dairy herds becomes less.

The milk produced and retailed in this district is of excellent quality and only at rare intervals during the past year has there been any cause for complaint. Two producers hold licences for the production of "Accredited" milk.

Four retailers are licensed for the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" milk and there are also 2 for the sale of "Accredited" milk and there are also 2 Supplementary licences issued for the sale of "Pasteurised" milk.

During the past year 217 visits have been made to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops in the district and a stringent control as possible is kept of persons engaged in this business in an endeavour to ensure the production and distribution of the milk and is so ordered that nothing is left undone which could be done to ensure that this valuable article of food reaches the consumer in a pure wholesome condition.

Samples have been taken, by arrangement with the County Public Health Department, of "Accredited" milk produced and retailed in the district; of these 10 were submitted for bacteriological and 13 for biological (T.B.) examination.

The results of the examination for cleanliness showed that a reasonable standard was being maintained and only in one instance following biological examination were tubercle bacilli detected. The affected animal was afterwards slaughtered.

By arrangement with the Lancashire County Council regular samples are taken of the milk produced in the district and supplied to schools. In this connection 7 samples were taken.

The standard of farm buildings in this district, particularly cowsheds, is generally fairly satisfactory. In a few instances however, the cowkeeper is somewhat handicapped by the age and bad arrangement of the present buildings and it will be essential in future to modernise these structures if a consistently clean milk is to be produced.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The large number of factories within the area are situated within Trafford Park, but the 46 workshops registered and under the jurisdiction of this authority are more evenly distributed throughout the district.

A fairly large number of improvements, and in some cases extensive alterations, have been effected during the year, the work in most cases being done on the request of your Inspector and without resort to statutory action.

OUTWORKERS.

At the present time there are 5 persons in the district who come under this head for purposes of the Factory and Workshops Act. The premises in which this work is carried on are regularly visited and on no occasion was there found cause for complaint.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Three trades are established under this heading ; one for tripe boiling and gut scraping, and two soap boiling. No complaints were received in connection with these premises and the businesses are controlled in a satisfactory manner.

PETROLEUM STORAGE.

The number of licences granted during the year under the Petroleum Act was 59. With regard to the bulk storage of carbide, four works in Trafford Park are involved, one for the preparation of special carbide blocks, and three for the preparation of dissolved acetylene gas in cylinders.

Regular visits of inspection were made during the year and all the regulations were found to be duly observed.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation to my staff for their loyal support and co-operation during the year.

ROBERT G. CHILD, M.S.I.A.,
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

